

Butterfly – Identification

A look at three different families of butterflies

← Family Lycaenidae – Hairstreak butterfly

Both the male and female fly close to the ground in search of food plants and a partner. Females can be seen walking along the branches or stems of a plant in search of a suitable place to lay eggs. Notice the empty pupa from which it emerged.

↓ Family Papilionidae - Papilio aegaeus

Commonly called the Citrus butterfly as females deposit eggs on the leaves of the citrus plants and a myriad of other plants.



← Family Nymphalidae – Crow butterflies

Crow butterflies fly slowly and often close to the ground. This species can be found along the east coast from Cape York down to northern New South Wales. If you look closely, you can see this butterfly has its' proboscis unrolled and feeding on the flowers nectar.

Family Papilionidae – Swallowtail butterflies →
Males can be seen patrolling an area where females occur. Males fly higher while the females tend to fly closer to the ground. The Clearwing Swallowtail can occur as far south as northern New South Wales and all the way up the Queensland coast. Notice these male on the right has joined together with the abdomen of a female, these butterflies are actually mating.

